(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to prevent such "bird flu" in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALTI EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A strain of influenza virus previously known to only infect birds was isolated from a three years old child in May, 1997 in Hong Kong. Thirteen confirmed, and six suspected cases of influenza due to virus strain H5N1 have been reported from Hong Kong.

(c) and (d) Short term and long term measures have been taken to prevent the inadvertent ingress of avian Influenza (Bird Flu) into India. These include a ban on import of domestic and wild birds from countries. Where the diseases was reported, monitoring and Surveillance measuers and observance of strict quarantine measures on the import of poultry and poultry products.

Necessary test kits have been obtained from centres for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA, and facilities for Laboratory tests are available at National Institute of Virology, Pune and National Institute of Communicable Diseases in the unlikely event of an outbreak.

National Institute of Communicable Disease, Delhi has already alerted the State health authorities in the country in January, 1998.

Law to Ban Human Cloning

3437. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from ICMR requesting to enact a law banning human cloning;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal of ICMR; and

(c) Government's reaction to the communication from ICMR?

THE MINISTER OF STETE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) DA Draft Consultative Document on Ethical Guidelines on Biomedical Research involving Human subjects had been prepared by the Central Ethical Committee of ICMR. One of the major areas covered by this document related to Human Genetics wherein a ban on Human cloning by law has been suggested. This document has been circulated to leading Scientific and Non-Scientific Institutions/Organisations medical Colleges, State Health Departments. Faculty of Law, Journalists and other eminent citizens of the country inviting their comments. Government will take a view after the ICMR finalises their approach based on the comments received.

Opening of New CGHS Homeopathic Units in Delhi

3438. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed in providing an efficient and meaningful medical care and services to CGHS beneficiaries by not opening more C.G.H.S. Homeopathic units in Delhi since 1986 due to resources and infrastructural constraints;

(b) whether demands for establishment of CGHS Homeopathic units in Delhi are continuing till date; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not giving amphasis to the development of I.S.M. and Homoepathy and opening of units under CGHS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) CGHS, Delhi, is presently providing Homocopathic medical care through three Homocopathic dispensaries in Delhi.

Some proposals for opening more Homocopathic Units under CGHS Delhi, have been included under the Ninth Five Year Plan which is still under consideration. Such proposals could not be considered earlier due to resource constraints.

स्मृति बढ़ाने वाली गोलियों की सच्चाई

3439. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि आजकल बाजार में तथाकथित स्मृति-वर्धक गोलियां उपलब्ध हैं एवं एक संस्थान ने "मेमोरी प्लस" नाम से गोलियां विक्रय हेतु जारी की हैं;

(ख) ऐसी गोलियों के मामले में तथाकथित दावों की सच्चाई को सत्यापित करने हेतु सरकारी स्तर पर क्या परीक्षण किए गए हैं, तथा ये परीक्षण कहां तक सफल रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या ये गोलियां पार्श्व प्रभावों (साइड इफेक्ट्स) से मुक्त हैं; और

(घ) यदि इन्हें सरकारी/अधिकृत जांचों में उपयुक्त नहीं पाया गया है, तो सरकार भ्रामक प्रचार करके बेची जाने वाली ऐसी गोलियों की बिक्री पर रोक लगाने हेतु क्या उपाय कर रही है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलित एजिलमलाई): (क) जी, हां। केन्द्रीय औषध अनुसंधान संस्थान, लखनऊ ने स्मृति-वर्धकों "मेमोरी प्लस" गोली तैयार की है। यह गोली बाजार में उपलब्ध है। इस गोली का विपणन मैसर्स निवारण हर्बल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा किया जा रहा है।

(ख) केन्द्रीय औषध अनुसंधान संस्थान, लखनऊ ने पशुओं पर अध्ययन किए हैं और यह पाया है कि यह गोली अध्ययन और स्मृति में सहायता देती है। मेमोरी प्लस के बारे में किए गए अध्ययन में निम्नलिखित शामिल हैं:

I. बेकोसाइड अंश (सक्रिय अवयव पर आधारित ब्रह्मी सत्व (व्यापारिक नाम: मेमोरी प्लस) का मानकीकरण।

II. आधुनिक औषध विकास के लिए यथा-आयोजित निरुपदता-अध्ययन (विनियामक भेषज-विज्ञान एवं विष-विज्ञान)

III. पशु-माडलों में अध्ययनशील स्मृति में सहायता देने में पाए गए ब्रह्मी सत्व (मेमोरी प्लस) का मानकीकरण।

(ग) तमिलनाडु सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि अध्ययन के परिणामों से पता चलता है कि यह गोली बहुत ही कारगर है और इसके कोई दुष्प्रभाव नहीं हैं।

(घ) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Dismal Performance in Drug Research

3440. DR. D. MASTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only four Allopathic drugs in the private sector and ten in the Government sector have been developed during the last seventy five years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this dismal performance in drug research; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Govenment to check drug prices from skyrocketing when foreign patented drugs have to be brought in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Research and Development efforts in India has fructified in 15 drugs being developed between 1921—1997. Outof these a majority have been developed by public sector institutions.

Indian performance in drug research is not dismal from any standpoint because of the following limitations involved in drug research, namely, (1) On an average, out of 10,000 compounds tested,